



Capt. Groth has served as the G.R.E.A.T. Program Coordinator since its inception in the La Crosse Police Department in 1993. Capt. Groth was appointed to the National Training Committee as the representative from the Midwest Region for the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

In addition to his dedication to the G.R.E.A.T. Program, Capt. Groth serves as a member of the Wisconsin Western Region VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) Training Team. He has conducted several training sessions throughout Wisconsin on the topic of Domestic Violence and mandatory arrest.

When asked how he thinks his region will be able to impact, change, and improve the programs in the Midwest Region, Capt. Groth stated, "There are several advantages to offering a regional center contact point. First of all, I think that we will be more aware of gang trends [and] issues in the upper Midwest. We can offer more personalized service than a national center. We can also offer personalized technical assistance to existing and new programs. I think that we will see more new programs develop, as it will be easier and more fiscally responsible for departments to justify the training within the region rather than traveling across the country."

Regional Training Administrator – Sergeant Raj Ramnarace began his service in law enforcement as a police officer with the La Crosse Police Department in January of 1987. His service was interrupted for one-and-a-half years

while he attended graduate school at George Washington University in Washington D.C. During this interim period, he worked at the U.S. State Department and for a suburban Washington area police department.

Sgt. Ramnarace returned to the La Crosse Police Department in January of 1990, serving as a patrol officer until 1991 when he transferred to the Community Services Bureau to teach as a DARE officer. In the summer of 1993, Sgt. Ramnarace, along with four other DARE officers, was certified as a G.R.E.A.T. Officer. His commitment to the G.R.E.A.T. Program led to his selection as a G.R.E.A.T. Team Leader candidate. Sgt. Ramnarace completed management training during the summer of 1994 in Phoenix and at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia.

With his promotion to Sergeant in 1994, Sgt. Ramnarace continued to remain active in the G.R.E.A.T. Program as a G.R.E.A.T. Officer and member of the National Training Team. With his department representing the Midwest Region, Sgt. Ramnarace was designated as the Regional Training Administrator for that region.

In addition to his full-time responsibilities, Sgt. Ramnarace has been active in a variety of other areas. He has served as the department's University Liaison since 1993. He is a hostage negotiator and a state certified instructor in firearms and EVOC. Sgt. Ramnarace created the Video Interactive Decision-Making System (VID-M), which is a unique use-of-force training system that has received national recognition. As a former Russian linguist with four years of military experience, Sgt. Ramnarace has traveled to Russia on three different occasions to work with the Russian Militia (National Police), with his efforts concentrating on training and school-based programs. In the Fall of 1997, Sgt. Ramnarace helped initiate the La Crosse Crime Victims Project. He was named Project Coordinator in 1998 and now coordinates county-wide efforts and supervises staff specialists at the La Crosse Police Department.

When asked what his aspirations are for G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training in the Midwest Region, Sgt. Ramnarace stated, "Our desire is for officers to be able to leave training not only feeling good about their ability to present the curriculum in their schools, but also feeling good about the training experience they have had here. If we can accomplish that, and effectively represent the Midwest and smaller agencies at the national level, then we will be quite happy." ~



Sergeant Raj Ramnarace, Regional Training Administrator, La Crosse Police Department, Wisconsin



Community

Connection

The Prevention Pals Puppet Course

by Karen Beary
Law Enforcement Crime Prevention, Inc.

Just three days after she arrived in a Florida family shelter from the northern city of her birth, Monica showed up in a special class being taught by Officer Larry Shuford. Her mother had taken her from the only home she knew, familiar faces, and the gang Monica had joined. Monica was still angry! Officer Shuford had seen that look before. "I didn't force Monica to participate in, *The Prevention Pals Puppet Course* for at-risk kids. Instead I let the laughter and enthusiasm of the other kids get to her. After several lessons of watching everyone else magically working the puppets and the story scenes, their fun became irresistible to Monica."

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was one of seven test sites chosen to implement the course because of its innovative crime prevention unit and creative instructors, like Officer Shuford. In a unique partnership with Mayor Delaney, Jacksonville Sheriff Nathaniel Glover has dedicated an entire unit to address the needs of at-risk children in a special program called "Intensive Care Schools."

Although *The Prevention Pals Puppet Course* is an excellent teaching tool for reaching at-risk students, it is also effective for

any students in Kindergarten through fourth grade. Research based, the course teaches early gang, drug and violence prevention with unique (age-appropriate) teaching techniques geared for students who learn best by doing instead of listening. Using law enforcement as a role model/coach, and puppets as their guide, students follow a prevention story of animal characters, with each prevention objective and consequence played out in a puppet scene for reinforcement. The course also showcases heroes in the local community.

Practitioner driven, law enforcement executives, elementary education specialists and drug rehab counselors, created the course. It contains 10 lesson plans and covers all the basics of prevention, thus laying the groundwork for more advanced drug, gang, and violence prevention courses like the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

Impressed by the test results, low cost per student, and the flexibility of the program, (which can be taught in the classroom or in after-school applications) the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is mentoring the development of a variety of applications in Florida. Six of their 12 regions are serving as catalysts to implement the program in 1999. In Georgia however, the school districts themselves have taken the lead. *The Prevention Pals Puppet Course* is approved for 10 hours of staff development

Continued on page 14



The Long Wait Is Finally Over !!

The G.R.E.A.T. Assistance Video

by Ernest Thomas
ATF Management Analyst

Early last year, a team of G.R.E.A.T. officers met to review Plan 2000 and further develop its objectives. One of the issues discussed was the development of an Assistance Program for agencies and communities interested in improving or starting the G.R.E.A.T. Program in their area. The team selected a subcommittee to produce an outline of the G.R.E.A.T. Assistance Team. As part of the assistance package, the subcommittee began work on a G.R.E.A.T. video for disseminating information about the program.

The G.R.E.A.T. Assistance Video completed production in late 1998 with technical support from Sun Digital Video Company of Orlando, Florida. The video was produced in two different versions. The first version, running about eight minutes, gives a general description of the program. It is specifically designed for parents and communities exploring additional options for expanding their current programs or who are being proactive to current issues in juvenile crime reduction.

The second version of the video runs about 12 minutes and is detailed in its description of the program. In this version, definitions and program processes are outlined. This version is designed for those considering using the program or who are attempting to get city officials, police departments and school departments interested in the program and its goals.

Both versions of the video are available on the same VHS videotape with an informational brochure. The video

and brochure can be obtained from the nearest G.R.E.A.T. Regional Training sites.

The G.R.E.A.T. Assistance Team is available to give further information and assistance to individuals or groups seeking guidance in becoming involved in the program, needing help with a current program, requesting answers to general questions or any other assistance that may be needed. For immediate help contact the Assistance Team by calling 1-800-726-7070 or use the email address great@atfhq.atf.treas.gov.





Central Florida instructors for the Prevention Pals Puppet Course.

"Prevention Pals" continued from page 12

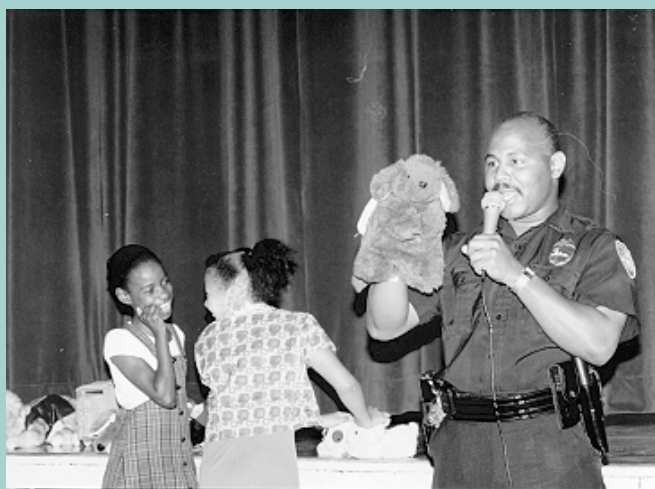
credit training for elementary school teachers through the Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA).

Chief John Sutphin of the Kissimmee Police Department and Sheriff Charlie Croft of the Osceola County Sheriff's Office are collaborating to implement the course in all grades from K through fourth grade, through a grant from the Florida DJJ. They see this as a positive way to involve parents in the prevention process, a critical and sometimes illusive component of the prevention process needed to keep kids away from crime. Students need parents to help them do the homework assignments, make the props and practice for the puppet play, which is conducted by the students as part of their graduation ceremonies.

The G.R.E.A.T. Program and its instructors know all about collaboration. Instructors constantly work to involve the maximum community participation. According to ATF Director John Magaw, "You [*The Prevention Pals Puppet Course*] have a creative approach to a very serious issue that every one of us in law enforcement should truly appreciate...communities need to develop strong, comprehensive strategies on how to work together to deliver a continuum of lessons from kindergarten through high school."

Raymond Beary has spent a lifetime developing innovative strategies for law enforcement. He was a chief for 30 years, 22 of them in Winter Park, Florida. "My people were always looking for new and effective prevention programs." As the President of Law Enforcement Crime Prevention, Inc. and one of the cofounders of, *The Prevention Pals Puppet Course*, Chief Beary recently observed, "After 40 years of aggressive intervention, I can now focus on prevention for the next generation." With nine grandchildren and three of his six children currently leaders in law enforcement, he knows what's important for children.

And what is now important to Monica?— her grades, her friends and a new positive outlook. She tells us in her own words,



Officer Shufford and his fourth graders introduce the puppets.

proudly spoken at graduation, "I used to be scared because I didn't know how to make choices. My mom taught me how. Thank you Officer Shufford for teaching me how to listen to my mom and make good choices." After the course Monica's mother added, "Thank you Officer Shufford for saving my child's life." Officer Shufford replied, "I didn't. WE did."

For more information on *The Prevention Pals Puppet Course*, please contact Chief Beary at 706-636-4901.

Editor's Note:

The following article has been included to show how the G.R.E.A.T. Program can compliment programs that already exist in the community. In this way, communities can offer a continuum of prevention programs targeted at a number of different age groups. The article is not intended in any way to act as an endorsement of the Prevention Pals Puppet Course; rather, it's purpose is to serve as an example.





Tribes Dish Up Tough Love to Stop Gang Membership

by Melissa Goldblat

Reprinted from *American Indian Report*
April 1998

It's nothing you wouldn't expect in a big city, but communities in Indian Country are not prepared to accept gangs as part of their legacy.

When New Town High School Principal Spencer Wilkinson saw kids in his school "showing colors" last spring, he immediately called the police department. The ensuing investigation revealed at least seven different gang affiliations.

"We called them in and said we were not going to accept gangs in our schools," Wilkinson said.

According to 1997 estimates by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, 375 gangs with approximately 4,650 members operate in or near Indian Country. The alarming number of gangs in Indian Country has forced many tribes to adjust their law enforcement efforts to address the kind of criminal activity usually associated with urban centers.

On a national scale, the BIA and tribal police are trying to turn kids away from gangs with the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program. Started in 1992, G.R.E.A.T. trains officers to teach children from elementary to middle school about gangs and how to stay out of them. The curriculum differs slightly by age group, but essentially it seems to "...help children set goals for themselves, resist pressures, learn how to resolve conflicts without violence, and understand how gangs and youth violence impact the

quality of their lives," according to program literature.

In New Town, ND, police went to special workshops, curfews were instituted and surveillance cameras were installed in the high school, which serves the vast majority of the Fort Berthold Reservation's students. But the most dramatic response was that, for the first time in New Town, the city and tribal councils agreed to coordinate some of their ordinances, giving the BIA, city and tribal police greater ability to deal with the situation.

The elements that create fertile ground for gangs to flourish are no secret. "Poverty is one of our nation's number-one enemies; a lot of our kids don't have too much," Wilkinson said. "We have a lot of these problems—drug abuse, alcohol abuse—that big cities have, but we're out here in the boondocks."

He feels that kids moving back to the reservation from metropolitan areas such as Minneapolis, Los Angeles and Denver introduced a city solution to the struggling youth back home—gangs.

Despite the swift policy actions taken, Wilkinson believes New Town officials are trying to take a "low-key approach ... a preventative [measure]." That is why, along with the cameras and curfews, education and positive alternatives are important.

The police gang unit came in to speak to students and the community. Parent involvement has improved in the form of parent meetings. The tribal council has a new community center for youth activity in Drags Wolf Village, the most densely populated community.

New Town isn't the only place dishing up tough love to gang members. The Menominee Reservation was shocked into action after a gang-related shooting in November 1998.

The department received some criticism from the community for not doing more to prevent gang activities. Now it has more officers patrolling on foot and going to schools. Preventative measures such as traffic control before the prom are being taken to quash the momentum of possible gang conflicts. The police department is currently seeking a grant to institute a mountain bike patrol, as well as a canine foot patrol unit to uncover drugs.

Apesanahkwat, chairman of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, cited a familiar list of reasons for the appearance of gangs on the reservation: poverty, lack of structure, lack of identity, broken homes, drugs and alcohol. "[Gang members] are looking for structure. It sounds kind of corny, but they are looking for love and identity... This is what gangs provide," he said.

A task force made up of young people, the prosecutor's office, tribal council members, tribal police, parents and elders is looking at the problem and will, in a matter of weeks, issue a report with recommendations, according to Apesanahkwat. The task force is addressing the gang issue on two levels.

The first level deals with the creation of laws and how enforcement can be expedited within the police department and prosecutor's

Continued on page 19



Southeast Regional G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training

by Sgt. Brett Meade

*G.R.E.A.T. Southeast Regional Training Administrator
Orange County Sheriff's Office*

The G.R.E.A.T. Southeast Region held its first G.R.E.A.T. OFFICER TRAINING the week of November 16-20, 1998, at the Langford Hotel in Winter Park Florida. The training graduated 31 new G.R.E.A.T. officers from Florida, California, New Mexico, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Kentucky and Arkansas. The Lieutenant Frank Fabrizio, Chairman of the GREAT National Training Committee, gave the opening remarks, welcoming the students to the training and advised them to do all that they can to stop gang violence.

As the Southeast Regional training site, the Orange County Sheriff's Office hosted the Training and brought together Team Leaders from all across the country. The Seminar supervisor was Charlie Kaye from the Brevard County Sheriff's Office in Titusville, FL. The Team Leaders were: Ron Jakola from the Phoenix Police Department, Tim



From left to right: Larry Zink, Ron Jakola, James Henderson, Brett Meade, Tim Cowan, La Shaun Braddock, Charlie Kaye, Angie Moore, Jeff Herweg, Frank Fabrizio, and Jim Verity

Cowan and James Henderson from the Garland Texas Department, Jim Verity from the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Orlando, FL, Angie Moore from the Tulsa Oklahoma Police Department, Warren Harding from the Philadelphia Police Department and Jeff Herweg from the Taylor Texas Police Department. The Administrative Assistant was Larry Zink from the Leavenworth Kansas Police Department. La Shaun Braddock is the Regional Assistant. This dedicated and experienced training team worked hard to ensure that the students had all of the necessary skills to become effective G.R.E.A.T. officers.

After an intense week of training and late night preparation, the entire class graduated. Orange County Sheriff, Kevin Beary, who serves as the Chairman of the G.R.E.A.T. National Policy Board, gave an inspirational and emotional commencement speech. Sheriff Beary encouraged each student to remember that they positively impact the children they come in contact with, because it's these kids who are our future. ~



Angie Moore directs a class of future G.R.E.A.T. Officers.



G.R.E.A.T. Student Essay

I Can Help Make the World G.R.E.A.T. by . . .

*G.R.E.A.T. Essay Written by
Maria Rojas
7th Grade Student at Bear Creek School
Lakewood, Colorado*

*Submitted by
G.R.E.A.T. Agent Stacey Collis
Lakewood Police Department
Lakewood, Colorado*

I can help make the world G.R.E.A.T. by first educating others about gangs. I know people who are in them and need help. Others I want to prevent from getting into one. There are people dear to me who I often worry about, like my friends and cousins. If I could educate them, I'd make them aware of all the dangers in being in a gang and how it can hurt you, your family and other friends deeply. You need to be active and hang around people you know are not in a gang and stay away from the ones who are trouble. That's all gangs do – bring trouble to your life and crime, violence, hatred, sorrow, misguidance, and sometimes death.

The reason why I would like to educate others is because there is a person I know who has gone through some rough times in his life because of a gang. He is sadly an example of what gangs can do to you. When he was a young boy, he got into a gang. He started using drugs and drinking. He stole money and his family lost all trust and faith in him. He dropped out of school in ninth grade, but before that, he was ditching and no one knew.

All of that was influenced by his friends because he couldn't say no. He has had a miserable time even today, suffering from the smoking which has probably given him lung cancer, overwhelmed by all the past AA meetings and debts and trouble with people. Now in his 30s, his life is much better. So many times, he has told me not to listen to all of what friends say and never be pressured by them. Most importantly, don't get into gangs and drugs.



Every time I see him, I think of what a hard life he has had so far. I'm glad he still has a chance to do good in his life. But what's done in the past can never be erased. He said it's like putting scratches in a log for everything you do. When the time comes to make up for the bad things, you can't take away the marks.

The last and most important thing I think I can do to help make the world G.R.E.A.T. is to stay true to myself. If I can't stay free of gangs and all that stuff, I won't be a good influence to my family and I will dishonor them in a way I don't want to. Lots of kids get into gangs because they don't feel important or noticed at home. That's the case with that person I know, but I don't feel like that.

If I stay out of it, I can look forward to a bright and promising future. I have more important things to do. I am confident in myself. I trust myself. It's other people I want to look out for-- like my little sister and friends. I think we all have a good life going for us. Why ruin it now when we're, in a way, just beginning?



IACP Conference a Success!




From left to right: Sergeant Brett Meade, Lieutenant Frank Fabrizio, Chief Kondracki, Captain Doug Groth, and Sheriff Beary

The 1998 International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Convention was held in Salt Lake City, Utah this past October. Among the exhibitors was the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program. The G.R.E.A.T. booth was on display for three days in the Salt Palace Convention Center before 12,000 attendees.

Essam Rabadi, ATF Special Agent for the G.R.E.A.T. Program, helped man the G.R.E.A.T. booth. When asked about the number of visitors, Special Agent Rabadi responded, "Many chiefs of police made it a point to stop by the booth. Many expressed how the G.R.E.A.T. Program benefited their community. In addition, many other executives stopped by the booth to inquire about how they can start the program in their community." Information on the G.R.E.A.T. Program was available for all who visited the booth.

The IACP conference had over 500 exhibitors ranging

from manufacturers of law enforcement related products to journalists from law enforcement publications. As a result, one reporter from "Law & Order" is writing an article on the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

Along with ATF G.R.E.A.T. personnel, several representatives from four of the G.R.E.A.T. Regional Training Sites were on hand to assist in manning the booth. A special thanks for the efforts of G.R.E.A.T. representatives from the Portland Police Bureau, Philadelphia Police Department, Orange County Sheriff's Office, and G.R.E.A.T.'s newest Regional Training Site — La Crosse Police Department. 

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who is in charge of managing the G.R.E.A.T. copyright/logo?

A. As of January 1999, ATF was placed in charge of managing the use of the G.R.E.A.T. copyright. Any questions regarding use of the logo should be directed to Nancy Henrietta at (800) 726-7070.

Q. How do departments recommend vendors for G.R.E.A.T. products?

A. Since vendor management and copyright management are inextricably linked, ATF will be responsible for the approval of vendors. If you have any questions or would like to recommend a vendor, contact Nancy Henrietta at the previously given telephone number.



Q. Can the core curriculum be taught in the 6th grade?

A. YES, as long as the 6th grade is the entry level into middle school in your community.

Q. Does the regionalization of the G.R.E.A.T. Program mean that National Training Team members can only instruct classes within their own regions?

A. NO. In order to maintain a diverse training team and ensure consistency in instruction across the nation, training teams are to consist of the following *whenever possible*:

50 percent of the team is to consist of members from the same region; *if possible*, no more than 25 percent from the same agency.

50 percent of the team is to consist of members representing other regions, *if possible*.

Q. Will G.R.E.A.T. Supervisors, National Training Team members, and G.R.E.A.T. officers get the opportunity to meet at a conference of their own?

A. YES. August 1 - 4, 2000. G.R.E.A.T. is currently trying to organize a conference for the summer of 2000. This would provide in-service opportunities to supplement current training and also allow for networking between G.R.E.A.T. officers across the country. Anyone interested in hosting 2001 should contact ATF at 1-800-726-7070.

"A Grip on Gangs" continued from page 15

office. The second level deals with how to fix the family unit. The second level has a special significance. Many on the task force have a relative who is a gang member.

Apesanahkwat said that the parents need to be more involved. "That's probably the biggest part of the problem. They are not willing to accept the responsibility that the problem with our children are our own fault."

Education and community programs seem to be the long-term weapons. A teaching tape, which is about 80 percent complete, is intended to show gang members that they're on a road to self-destruction. Many tribal members also feel traditional Menominee values can help children and young adults resist being drawn into a gang.

Through the Menominee religion—Big Drum—tribal members try to teach kids how to draw on their inner strength and peace. They learn the steps of being a warrior and that a youth can never be considered a warrior if he is gang-active and breaking the law.

A civilian Law Enforcement Community Organizer is setting up support groups and community watches. A Counter-Act officer teaches all the fourth-graders on the reservation how to "say no" to drugs and gangs, and plans to rotate those sessions into the third and second grades are being considered.

Keeping at-risk youth from getting involved in gangs is being dealt with through several programs. The Drug Elimination Counselor and the Youth-at-Risk Counselor run the Starlight Program in which parents and grandparents spend time with young people.

"We have latch-key kids ... the young people have free reign to do what they choose to do because parents are constantly working to barely pay the bills, or are going out to 'get loose' after work," explained Apesanahkwat.

The Starlight Program gives these kids a safe place to be. In addition, a Family Preservation Program works on how to preserve the family within the culture and the Elder and Youth Council seeks to bring those two groups together for events.

Right now the situation appears to be under control with many of the gang leaders already incarcerated. But tribal officials are looking to the future to stay prepared. "We're looking at recommendations for making a more expedited process for prosecuting gang-related crimes, dealing with the graffiti issue," said Apesanahkwat. "We don't know what the solutions are ... the task force [findings] will help."

This article was reprinted with permission from the April 1998 issue of American Indian Report 1-800-992-4489 ext.114.





Dear G.R.E.A.T.

*Sent by Officer Bruce Baker
Napa Police Department
January 15, 1999*

In September 1997, I started the G.R.E.A.T. Program at Silverado Middle School in Napa, California. This was to be a pilot program in Napa. The program became an instant success. Students, teachers, administrators and parents all agree that this is a fantastic program. There is enormous community support for the G.R.E.A.T. Program. The Kiwanis Club of Napa and the Napa Valley Community Foundation have contributed funds to the program, helping to make it a success.

In one year, the suspension rate dropped in half and a huge reduction in disruptive behavior was noticed. The Principal, with 30 years of service, told me that last year was the best year he has ever had on campus and this year is proving to be the same or better. He said he contributes this success to the G.R.E.A.T. Program and to my presence on campus.

The principal at Redwood Middle School learned about the program and its success and requested that it be taught at his school. In September 1998, the program was initiated at Redwood. The program is also well received and complemented by the teachers and administrators.

Well over 1,000 students have graduated from the program. I am always impressed when I review the workbooks and read the essays. After working the streets for over 25 years, I did not realize 7th graders were as sensitive, caring and reasonable as I have found them to be. This is probably a greater educational process for me than the students. I have attached an essay from one of my students from Silverado Middle School who put the final essay into a poem. She was the final essay winner for her class and I felt compelled to share it with the people reading the G.R.E.A.T. newsletter.

Thank you.

*Corinna White, 12 years old
7th grade, Silverado Middle School
Napa, California*

*G.R.E.A.T. taught me much
And following is such:
My rights are mine,
My rights I won't decline.
Knowing what's right & wrong I learned,
From your opinion you shouldn't turn.
Drugs can make you confused
Drugs definitely shouldn't be used.*

*Your family cares for you
Their love for you is true.
You're extended family care for you too
They're very important to you.
Feeling comfort is a nice feeling
And you should be believing,
You have ones around you that care.*

*So this is my main advice
Don't even think about it twice,
Don't get involved with gangs,
Or you'll feel you're caught in chains.
Don't do drugs, for they are bad,
Taking them will only make you sad.
Make positive friends,
Those friends will never end.
Make your own choices
And those voices,
Will most likely be good.*

*Make the world a better place to be
So we can all be filled with glee.*

Gang Resistance Education and Training taught me a lot and I am glad to take this course. Thanks to Officer Baker who was GREAT!!! ~